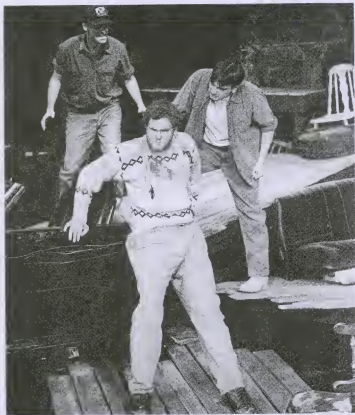


city college news



THEATRE STUDENTS PUT ON PAIR OF PRODUCTIONS: George Brown Theatre's Spring Repertory season kicked off in late April with Presson Allen's "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" and Lanford Wilson's "The Rimers of Eldritch". Pictured here, in a scene from "The Rimers of Eldritch" are students (from left): Adam Moyer, Neil Miller and Gordon Bolan. Photo credit: Andrew Oxenham.

City College in solid fiscal shape

Fiscally, George Brown College ended 2000/01 in a solid position. The College maintained a balanced budget, said Eugene Harrigan, Vice President, Corporate Services.

Among the encouraging notes were: overall revenue and expenditures were on track; we maintained a positive cash flow; and we contributed additional funds to the SuperBuild Fund.

In addition to continuing the momentum for 2001/02, this strong financial position

allows the College to invest in: improving key support areas such as Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) and IT; continuing to expand on initiatives begun as part of the Change Project; and providing for contingencies. In fact, the College will invest \$4 million in strategic initiative projects to attract more highly qualified students, launch web-based registration this summer, and fund program and professional development.

City College gets \$1 million Lifelong Learning Award

George Brown College was recently awarded a \$1 million TVO Lifelong Learning Challenge Fund Award.

Colin Simpson, Dean of the Centre for Continuous Learning, accepted the award on April 3 at the TVO Head Office in Toronto. It was one of eight awards given that day, three of which went to community colleges.

Simpson's Award recognizes the Electronics Technicians CD-ROM developed by Simpson and private sector partner Interactive Image Technologies Ltd.

The interactive package lets students complete their course material and earn an electronics technician certificate while studying at home. More than 2,500 students have enrolled since the CD-ROM has been in use. Simpson says the goal is to expand the original initiative to create a virtual campus.

"This is the only program of its kind in the world," said Simpson. "We've been contacted by colleges throughout North America -- in B.C., Florida and California -- as well as by private industry who are interested in what we're doing."

The Award money is being invested in expanding the project so that a pilot website, accessible from anywhere in the world, will be up and running by Spring 2003. "We want to build a virtual campus, complete with counselling facilities, a library and

on-line testing," Simpson said. "We've hired a Project Manager, Anya Wood, and we'll be hiring technical staff and instructional designers."

In addition to the virtual, on-line counselling and library, students will also be able to make use of conferencing facilities and chat rooms, all with the goal of adding to the "campus experience".

The CD-ROM was designed to reach students who cannot attend classes full-time because they have family or work commitments. The proposed website will help extend the program's reach even as it enhances the students' educational experience.

The Lifelong Learning Challenge Fund is a joint program between TVOntario and the private sector. The Fund supports Internet-based programs that allow adults to upgrade their professional skills and that increase their employment opportunities.

This is the second award the CD-ROM has won since it was introduced three years ago. It received a Program of Excellence Award from the Association of Community Colleges of Canada in 1998.

"The TVO Lifelong Learning Challenge Fund Award is wonderful confirmation that George Brown College is a leader in creating the future of education," said Simpson. "Lifelong learning is accepted as a requirement for both career and personal success."

First ever librarian sits on Board of Governors

Ita Ferdinand-Grant is the first ever librarian to be appointed as the Faculty Representative on the City College's Board of Governors.

Elected in the Fall of 2000 to complete the three-year term begun by Professor Ed Ksenych, Ferdinand-Grant has spent 22 years at George Brown College.

She started out in 1979 as a faculty librarian on the St. James campus. Since 1984 she has been on the Casa Loma campus and has seen the library through their renovations, four years ago, as well as technological changes that include shifting from card catalogues to online catalogues, electronic research databases and internet-based resources.

"The goals of 1979 are still true today," Ferdinand-Grant says. "It's important for college graduates to be information literate. They need to know how to find and use information from a variety of sources and how to make that information their own, instead of just feeding it back."



Toward this end, her job includes collection development, acquisitions, user training and public service.

Ferdinand-Grant says being a librarian offers an unique perspective in her Board position. "Librarians have always been mediators," she says, "between faculty or students and information. A librarian is at the centre of any institution and must serve both faculty and student needs."

She sees her job as the Faculty Representative to make the College's faculty aware of issues, such as the new academic policies, and to promote the value of faculty. "We need to value what faculty does, and that includes professors, counsellor and librar-

ians," says Ferdinand-Grant. "There has to be more consultation and students must be put first."

Ferdinand-Grant is no stranger to committee work. At George Brown, she has served on Labour Fair, Affirmative Action Advisory, Joint Employment Equity, and Vision 2000 committees.

Within her own professional network, she has been the college representative on the Ontario Library Association (OLA) Professional Development Committee and the Ontario Colleges and Universities Library Association representative on the planning council for the 1988 OLA conference. She is also the co-founder and chair of the African Canadian Information Specialists group.

Given the impact of computers on information gathering, Ferdinand-Grant's background seems perfect for her job. Originally from Trinidad where she trained with IBM, she came to Canada in 1972.

She took her Bachelor of Arts degree at University of Guelph, with a double major

in math and Spanish, before going on to University of Western Ontario for a Master's in Library Science. She chose Western because their program emphasised the use of computers in information management. After brief stints at the Ministry of Correctional Services and the Metropolitan Reference Library, Ferdinand-Grant came to work at George Brown College.

Mother of two teenagers, one day she hopes to have the time to brush up on her Spanish and to master French. She had her first chance to practice her Spanish while studying for her Bachelor's degree. She was the first Guelph University student to spend a year at the Ivan Ilych CIDOC school in Guernevaca, Mexico, an experience which she loved.

Ferdinand-Grant is also an avid reader who "reads everything, and not just because I'm a librarian". This openness is, no doubt, helping her serve her constituency well in her latest role as Board member.

New college academic policies ready on intranet site

The new George Brown College Academic Policies are now available on the City College intranet site at 132.132.1.

All policies have been reviewed and many have been revised, says Director of Academic Excellence, Marjorie McColm. In response to College needs, new policies have been added, including 'Educational Complaints', which outlines the procedures for students who want to make a complaint about educational issues, and a new 'Research

Ethics Policy' governing faculty and student research.

Faculty and staff are encouraged to throw out their outdated policies and download policies from the site. Hard copies of the entire, new 2001 document will not be distributed. Instead, faculty and staff can target, download and print the policies which apply to them as they need them. An easy-to-read index can also be found on the site.

The revised 2001 document is the result of college-wide input. Draft versions were posted on the intranet and

feedback on these drafts was solicited from faculty and staff earlier this year.

Continued feedback is welcome, McColm says, and relying on an electronic version will get changes implemented more quickly than would be possible with only printed versions. With a web-only copy, future revisions and updates will be easy to do and to distribute.

To be sure that the newest version of the policies are being used, McColm said a policy audit will take place in 2002. A commitment to aca-

ademic excellence and currency means that the policies will be reviewed each year, taking into account new academic needs, program changes and staff feedback.

Students will receive a comprehensive communication package on the new and revised academic policies this Fall, McColm said.

Among the most frequently used policies which were reviewed and revised were those dealing with: curriculum, codes of conduct for academic staff and students, discipline, and appeals.

Three Support Staff run for open Board position

These employees have been nominated for the Support Staff member position on the Board of Governors. The three year term runs from Sept. 1, 2001 to Aug. 31, 2004.

Here is a statement from each nominee:



**Elisabeth Henriques,
Business & Creative Arts,
St. James Campus**

The Board of Governors is an integral part of George Brown College. It merits a proud and committed Support Staff Representative whose demonstrates honesty, integrity and determination. I will take an active role in any activities and responsibilities required.

I understand the importance of student satisfaction and how it affects George Brown College (Key Performance Indicators) and as a former student, I can offer perspective and insight from a student's point of view.

Working in the Business and Creative Arts Division has given me an understanding of the College structure and I have had the opportunity to work with many different people on various projects (Ontario Colleges Marketing Competition, KPI and student surveys, GBC Holiday Gala, Annual Staff Picnic, Business and Graphics Students Awards).

I am committed to the students, my colleagues, and to George Brown College and the Community we serve.

Election campaign runs until Tuesday, May 15

Voting will take place at polling booths on each of the campuses on Wednesday, May 16 and Thursday, May 17.

Arrangements are being made for a travelling poll as well.



**Adam Kung,
Information Systems Department**

Let me first thank my nominators: Elsa Hokan, Julie Harrington, Giancarlo Grossi, Monica Chiang, James Brouwer, and Gail Leonardo for their support.

During the past three years as your representative, I have constantly reminded the Board of the vital role that Support Staff plays in the College. Consequently, in appreciation of Support Staff and in recognition of the less than equitable compensation package we received at the time, Pres. Sorochinsky granted us two additional vacation days and a dinner for two at Siegfried's. The message of importance and equitable treatment of Support Staff was heard and resulted in a fairer compensation package in the current contract.

In the past few years, operating grants to the colleges have been cut. Apprenticeship programs are now run by industry. Some programs such as nursing have become degree programs and the province is certifying programs offered by private colleges that meet provincial standards. These trends are alarming. As a result of the provincial government's tax cuts, savings must be found. These savings are usually found through amalgamation, privatization, eliminating services and contracting out. In other words, our jobs are on the line.

If I have the honour of representing you on the Board again, I shall use my experience to influence the Board and to persuade the Ministry of the importance of the community colleges in the education system. I shall also advance the job security and continue to encourage the equitable treatment of Support Staff.



**Cynthia McDonagh,
Creative Arts and Fashion,
Casa Loma Campus**

It seems like yesterday I started working at George Brown College but it's been 17 years. During this time, I've been an active participant on many committees - Picnic, Children's Party, Design Team, Change Project, College Council, Implementation Committee, Steward and OPSEU Local 557 Vice President.

The functions and roles of Board Members are to: establish college purpose and direction; ensure effective and efficient management; establish policies; and promote effective communication. The College's strategic planning orchestrates the purpose and direction of the College, the KPI's rate our effectiveness and efficiency levels, and the Portals and Pathways Report from the Investing in Student Task Force may have an effect on how we bargain in the future.

Support Staff need a strong and active participant who will voice our concerns and issues to the Board.

17 years of college experience in areas such as finance, student services, academic divisions and, most recently, continuing education and four years union experience has given me the knowledge and expertise to be an active participant and aggressive voice on the Board of Governors.

If elected to the Board of Governors, I will ensure that our issues are communicated to the Board. Together we can be progressive about our future at George Brown College.

I would like your support on May 16th and 17th to guarantee a strong voice on the Board of Governors.



'SIGNATURES 2001': Students in the College's Fashion Technology & Design program showcased their creations on the evening of April 26 at Luxor. First and second year student designs were judged by a panel of faculty and industry representatives. The event was sold out and more than 800 people packed the room.

Technology students compete in annual Ontario Skills Competition

Nine City College students from five technology programs will compete in the 2001 Ontario Technical Skills Competition in Kitchener from May 7 to 9.

This group of students hopes to match or better the success of City College students who

entered the 2000 provincial competition in which George Brown won four gold, three silver and one bronze.

The gold medal winners in 2000 were: James Farrington (Architectural CAD); Andy Ley (Mechanical CAD); Ian Gunter (Industrial Wiring) and Michael VanDaalen (Carpentry).

The silver winners were: Chris Trinkwon (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning); Victor Zdanski (Plumbing); and Sarah Blackstone (Ladies/Men's Hair Styling). Matthew Smith took bronze in Carpentry.

The four gold medallists went on to compete in the 6th Canadian Skills Competition held in Quebec City, from June 2 to 7, 2000. James Farrington took the bronze award in Architectural CAD at the national level.



Gold medal winner Ian Gunter at the 2000 Ontario Technical Skills Competition held in Kitchener.

news briefs

Karen Walker receives Award of Excellence

Karen Walker, a Coordinator/Counsellor for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, received the Student Association's Community Award of Excellence at their annual Appreciation Banquet on April 20.

The award is given to a college staff member who "exemplifies the high quality delivery of services to students within the George Brown College learning community and contributes positively to the attainment of community goals."

Employers give high marks to college training

A survey by The Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario (ACAATO) said that 96% of the 626 corporate and public sector employers surveyed who used college resources for employee training said that college programs contributed to their success in only a few months.

"In fact, in virtually every area of measurement, the colleges received an A," said Gary Cronkright, director of Colleges of Ontario Network for Education and Training (CON*NECT), a division of the ACAATO. "Nine out of 10 clients cited our instructors, facilities, course content, flexibility and pricing as reasons why they'll come back to the colleges for training programs," he said. "This shows that the college sector provides excellent training that has a very positive impact on the operations of the demanding corporate and public sectors."

The survey of more than 600 clients was conducted by Forum Canada Research on behalf of ACAATO and the College Provincial Contract Training Network.

Annual Staff Picnic set for Saturday, May 26

A reminder that the Annual Staff Picnic on Centre Island is set for Saturday, May 26. Call Carol Fortune (2040 - St. James), Julie Harrington (2360 - Nightingale), or Dina Sturino (4528 - Casa Loma) for more information. Remember: registration forms are due by Friday, May 18.

City College Golf Day set for Monday, May 28

Dust off those clubs! The annual golf tournament will be held Monday, May 28, beginning at 10:30 am, at the Parkview Golf Club. For more information, call Tom or Madelaine at 2200.

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